



# Insight

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## McConnell: Time to say goodbye

For the last two and a half years I've had the privilege of serving as the command sergeant major of one of the Defense Department's finest organizations - the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command.

During that time I've watched the men and women of this outstanding team meet challenge after challenge with unswerving dedication. There is no doubt in my mind, or in the minds of our country's leaders, that you have made INSCOM a major player in the Global War on Terrorism.

"Wherever there are Soldiers there is INSCOM." That saying has been around for a while, but it has never been truer than it is today as we send our personnel into the heart of theaters of operation from Iraq to the Philippines. Providing direct support to the warfighter remains a 24-7 mission, day-in and day-out the demand never stops. Our personnel are under a huge burden, yet they continue to perform. Our people are at the top of their game and they're getting better.

I will leave you with three thoughts about the future of INSCOM.

We must continue on this path of success. We have

never been more engaged, or more involved with the other services and members of the intelligence community. No service understands as well as the Army that we do not fight alone. No organization sees as clearly as INSCOM that we cannot affect the fight, much less win it unless we are committed members of a Joint team. We must become interdependent.

The world continues to become more connected. The power of information is the atomic bomb of the 21st Century. We must continue to learn to harness that power, to use and control it for the security of our Nation and the betterment of our world. We must do our part, and more than our part, to keep our Army relevant and ready as we move from the current to the future force.

And finally, we must continue to build today's workforce to become tomorrow's leaders and visionaries in military intelligence. I've served nearly 30 years in the Army. In that time I've discovered that our Soldiers and civilians will meet any challenge and accomplish all tasks if they have confidence in their leadership. Our workforce cares about whether their leaders care. That's a part of the contract we



*DA photo*

have with our people. To provide caring, confident and competent leadership will ensure the efforts and sacrifices of our Soldiers and civilians have meaning. We must continue to deliver on that promise.

This isn't exactly good-bye, DIA is close and our community is small. Still, I'll miss the daily contact with each of you. I have the satisfaction of knowing I'm leaving you in good hands with Command Sgt. Maj. Maureen Johnson. Please treat her with the same level of candor and professionalism you've given me.

I challenge you to remain relevant while providing the best actionable intelligence needed in support of current and future operations.

# Family priority with INSCOM

by Tina Miles  
902nd MI Group

As the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command goes through transformation with the rest of the Army, so too does the 902nd Military Intelligence Group.

The 902nd MI Group faces new missions. Readiness, which has always been a priority, now takes on an even greater importance. In the fight against global terrorism deployments will continue to be a mainstay in the life of soldiers. Under these circumstances, family readiness becomes even more significant.

In keeping with a state of constant readiness, the 902nd MI Group has recently focused its attention on the establishment of a new Family Readiness Group that supports the entire group.

Even though the battalions and companies within the 902nd have historically had their own Family Readiness Groups, a Family Readiness Group for the "Deuce" itself is a new concept.

"Under this new organization, the group's family readiness committee will be able to coordinate activities for the entire 902nd," said Capt. James Howie, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment.

"Ensuring that lines of communications flow throughout the Group to see that individual needs are met and the commander's intent is properly disseminated," Howie said. "We want to identify what the Group can provide for the battalions to compliment their existing Family Readiness Groups."

The Family Readiness Group is a great source of information for those remaining at home while spouses are deployed, said Capt. Dianna Terpin, Family Readiness Group mem-



*courtesy photo*

**Capt. James Howie, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 902nd MI Group prepares to write a list of Frequently Asked Questions at the Family Readiness Group meeting, as attendees review brochures provided to them.**

ber and spouse of Capt. Abelardo D. Terpin, 902nd Military Group.

"It's a good way to tie in with the unit to make sure everyone involved is well informed. My husband and I have comfort knowing the Family Readiness Group is a place to turn to for support. It's nice to know that no one really has to be alone in times like these," she said.

The overall feeling of the spouses who attend the meetings is that even if they are without immediate family, they have a surrogate family within the Family Readiness Group.

Family Readiness Groups play a crucial role in the overall mission of the 902nd MI Group. The new organization is designed to be a support mechanism, as well as to assist in the

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photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Reinhardt

#### **Soldiers helping Soldiers**

***A medic attends to donor Pfc. Tatyana Tevs at a blood drive Oct. 29 at the Dagger Complex in Darmstadt, Germany. Soldiers and civilians contributed 39 units of blood to the U.S. Army Europe Blood Donor Center, much of it destined for soldiers serving in the Middle East and Afghanistan.***

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enhancement of the quality of life for all concerned.

In conjunction with the new Family Readiness Group, the 902nd MI Group has also established a website for public access. Along with information pertaining to the Group, there is a specific area dedicated to family readiness. Within the family readiness portion of the site are helpful references, such as a deployment readiness guide, frequently asked questions, and links to additional resources to assist

Soldiers and family members. Among these valuable links are Army Community Services, Army Emergency Relief and Legal Services.

Family Readiness Groups are an integral component of mission readiness, said Stacey Hale, of the Victim Advocacy Support Team, Army Community Services. They provide a network of communication between family members, the unit and community resources. "In fact, the primary purpose of any Family Readiness Group is to encourage self-sufficiency

among its members by providing information, referral assistance and mutual support," said Hale. The group achieves family readiness by providing an atmosphere and an agenda of activities which build cohesiveness among unit members and their families, she said.

The 902nd MI Group leaders believe the group stands ready at all times to meet the continuing changes in mission and future transformation challenges - as expressed by the Group's motto: "Strength Through Vigilance."



# 704th Soldiers 'moving on up'

by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt  
704th MI Brigade

Soldiers of the 704<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Brigade and their families are now enjoying something Fort George G. Meade, Md., hasn't seen in a long time - brand new housing.

Picerne Military Housing has embarked on a ten-year construction project that will give residents of Fort Meade a total of 2,748 new homes and renovate 112 historic homes at a cost of more than \$400 million. There will be nearly 930 acres that will be used to build five new neighborhoods. The average age of the current homes at Fort Meade is 42 years.

"I wanted to really move on post, because I've never lived on a post before," said Cheryl Chafos, resident of the first newly constructed neighborhood built on Fort Meade. "My husband has always had special assignments where there wasn't a post to live on."

"We were committed to living on post," Cheryl Chafos added. "I was more determined to live on post with the new housing going up."

In 1996, President Bill Clinton signed into law the National Defense Authorization Act, which allowed the Defense Department to work with private sector contractors to build and renovate military housing.

By partnering with private sector companies, DOD can improve the quality of life for members of the U.S. military



photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt

**Soldiers and family members of the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade are starting to move into brand new Fort Meade, Md., housing.**

and their families faster and at a lower cost to American taxpayers.

Today, Defense Department agencies and activities account for most of the work done on Fort Meade. The National Security Agency is by far the largest employer of military personnel on Fort Meade. Because of the nature of their skills and because Fort Meade is a national center for their military specialties, there is a high probability that personnel will return to Fort Meade again and again. Improving the quality of life for this group is an important factor in increasing retention rates, according to a Picerne spokesman.

"It (the move) was a fully paid government move," said

Timothy A. Chafos, operations and training officer, 704<sup>th</sup> MI Brigade. "We were authorized partial dislocation allowance (DLA) in which I received over \$500 while the movers moved us. We got full DLA because the company grade officers on post moved into field grade housing, which we were living in at Argonne Hills West, and the field grade officers moved into the new housing."

"We thought the process was great, getting a new house," added Chafos. "They called us when we were eligible for the new housing. It wasn't us calling them."

Neighborhood one, which the Chafos family enjoys, sits on 45 acres and is located near

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*photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt*

***The Picerne Military Housing project will give Fort Meade residents a total of 2,748 new homes.***

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the 5th fairway of the golf course on the east side of Cooper Road. Seventy percent of all the new homes will be town homes and the balance will be detached single family homes.

In addition, each neighborhood will have its own Neighborhood Center, which will contain a swimming pool, indoor basketball area, lounge area, community room, fitness center, tot-lots, picnic areas, mail drops, maintenance facility, computer lab, business center and other open spaces for community activity.

"The Urban Neighborhood Center is still under construction, but it will be nice to be able to work out in the gym and still be able to watch my kids play at the same time," added Cheryl Chafos. "The day care center will be right across from the gym.

"Also, the house is at an ideal location on the golf course," said Cheryl Chafos. "It's beautiful and in a prime location. My mom, who is from New Jersey, said a house in this location on a golf course would be worth between \$700,000 and \$800,000 in New Jersey just because of the

location."

The new home which the Chafos and their two young sons enjoy is a two-story town home with a two-car garage. The house has four-spacious bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths, a breakfast nook, dining room, state-of-the-art kitchen and appliances and is set off by giant vaulted ceilings.

"They are all four bedroom houses," added Cheryl Chafos. "Everyone gets a four bedroom regardless of how many children you have. This is the nicest house we will ever have in the Army."

# Camp Humphreys hosts orphans

by Sgt. Lorin T. Smith  
501st MI Brigade

Santa Claus made a special trip to the Community Activities Center at Camp Humphreys, Korea when the 501st Military Intelligence Brigade hosted 60 children from the Shin-Sung Orphanage Dec. 16.

The children were provided with a night of gifts, games, fun activities and the Christmas spirit by the three MI battalions with more than 75 volunteers located at Camp Humphreys.

"This may be the only presents these children may get this year," said Chap. (Capt.) Darin Olson, 3rd MI Battalion's chaplain.

Each battalion set up tables with events for the children to participate in: The 3rd MI Battalion's Family Readiness Group had Christmas cookies to decorate, Company B, 532nd MI Battalion had face painting, and Company A, 3rd MI Battalion had Soldiers amusing the children with card tricks and the "disappearing thumb" trick. A 15-foot Christmas tree was set up with lights, garlands and ornaments, and 60 presents under the tree.

For the night's finale, Santa Claus gave each child a gift and a picture on Santa's lap for them to take home in a decorated frame to tie around their neck.

Eleven months out of the year, the chaplain and Soldier-volunteers visit the orphanage in Anseong for about three hours, bringing food and love to the children.

"We have birthday parties for them with presents, and play games like Hokie Pokie and soccer," Olson said. "The unaccompanied Soldiers like to go because maybe they have a (child) back in the States, and this is one way they can make a difference in a child's life."

All the presents were bought by volunteers. At Thanksgiving, the chaplain got each child's name from the orphanage and put it on a star.

"The stars went so fast there were more Soldiers wanting stars than there were children," Olson said.

Sgt. Eric Warren, Headquarters Operations Company, 527th MI Battalion, doesn't have any



photo by Sgt. Lorin T. Smith

**Santa visits with many of the 60 children from the Shin-Sung Orphanage at the Community Activities Center at Camp Humphreys, Korea Dec. 16.**

children, but he enjoys the rewarding experience of spending time with the orphans.

"When I went to the orphanage, it was so rewarding to seeing their faces for the first time and having four kids hugging me," Warren said. "They don't have any family to give them anything at the orphanage."

Warren said that he gets a really good feeling when they are so enthusiastic to see U.S. Soldiers giving back to the community.

Another volunteer is Pfc. Andrea Vela, Headquarters Support Company, 3rd MI Battalion. She has only been to the orphanage once, but vows to go again.

When the event ended, every child left with a smile on their face.

"Tonight was a time to make a unifying relation with the Korean children," Olson said.



# Prayer breakfast tradition continues

by Tina Miles  
902nd MI Group

Following the traditions of our country's founding fathers in seeking spiritual guidance, the 902nd Military Intelligence Group held its annual Holiday Prayer Breakfast at the Club Meade, Fort Meade, Md., Dec. 3.

In his welcome message, Col. Michael D. Bisacre, commander, 902nd Military Intelligence Group, mentioned how relevant it is today, as it has been for years that Soldiers and civilians come together in search of divine guidance for their leaders.

Bisacre noted the history of prayer breakfast groups. In 1942, with the awesome responsibilities of leading a nation at war, members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives inaugurated the first prayer breakfast.

In 1953, members of the congressional prayer breakfast groups established with President Eisenhower the first Presidential Prayer Breakfast. Each year since then, the breakfast has brought together the president, members of his cabinet, the Supreme Court, Congress, the diplomatic corps, military leaders and leaders in the fields of business, labor, education and science from every state in the union.

More importantly, he reminded the audience of another reason for holding such an event. Just prior to the breakfast, Bisacre said he was approached by a mother who said her son had been recently redeployed to Iraq and asked that he be remembered in prayer.

"That is why we are here today," said Bisacre. "As thousands of Americans, just like

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*photo by Tina Miles*

**Members of the U.S. Army Field Band Brass Quintet play during the 902nd MI Group prayer breakfast Dec. 3.**



photo by Tina Miles

**Sgt. Maj. Eric Seals, 902nd Military Intelligence Group, bows his head in prayer during the prayer breakfast.**

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you, gather together for Christmas and Hanukah celebrations, remember those who are away.”

Chap. (Maj.) Ernest Vermont, 902nd MI Group, followed with an invocation. Then the U.S. Army Field Band Brass Quintet supplied holiday music. The festivities included a bountiful breakfast of eggs, meats, potatoes and a variety of pastries, coffee and juice.

The 902nd Military Intelligence Group was privileged to hear not only the words of guest speaker James O'Bryon, a national defense and security consultant, but his powerful singing as he sang a song he had written. O'Bryon, a retired Department of Defense employee at the Pentagon, also shared some personal memories, including his experiences Sept. 11, 2001, when the Pentagon was attacked.

“The event forever changed my life and I'm

sure the lives of nearly everyone who survived that day,” said O'Bryon.

He went on to talk about his 37-year career with the Department of Defense, and having the privilege of serving in the Pentagon for seven different secretaries of defense, beginning with Casper Weinberger and retiring while working for Donald Rumsfeld.

“It has been quite a run with many opportunities to learn and serve this nation,” he said.

One of the experiences O'Bryon used was that of his visit to a small summer camp for teens in New Hampshire a number of years ago. He told the story of how he noticed a shy, young boy sitting by himself near a chess-board. Soon the two played a game of chess when O'Bryon realized the boy was much more skilled in the game than he was.

Endeavoring to change the rules a little, O'Bryon suggested they remove the kings from the board and play again. The boy agreed and the new game continued almost normally for about 15 turns when it became obvious that the game was taking some unusual turns.

The boy inquired, “How do you know when you've won since the king isn't on the board?” O'Bryon responded with, “And how do you know that you've lost either?” They played a few more turns and decided to quit since there was no goal or object for the game.

As he concluded his speech, O'Bryon paralleled that game to life, saying, “A lot of people are living without a king in their lives, no one that guides them and gives them hope and a goal.”

O'Bryon was presented with a special appreciation citation and Group coin by Bisacre, and the Group Prayer Breakfast closed with a benediction.

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***“The event forever changed my life and I'm sure the lives of nearly everyone who survived that day.”***

*James O'Bryon,  
national defense consultant and  
prayer breakfast guest speaker*

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# Soldiers can view records online

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Soldiers can now review their personnel information on the Web in a one-page Enlisted Records Brief.

Official photographs were added last month to the online Officer Records Briefs, which first became available on the Web in June. The ERBs went online in December.

MyERB and MyORB are now both on the U.S. Army Human Resources Command homepage at <https://www.hrc.army.mil>. Just click on the "Active" link at bottom right. Then the MyORB and MyERB links can be found on the left.

The Web-based solution enables active-duty Soldiers to prepare for promotions by reviewing their records summary via the Internet, HRC officials said. Army Reserve

Soldiers and officers can review some of their personnel information via the [My2Xcitizen portal](#). Both the HRC and Reserve portals require Army Knowledge Online accounts and passwords.

"We believe that Soldiers' access to their personnel information is the best it's ever been with the ERB going online," said Col. Reuben Jones, commander of the Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center.

"If Soldiers need to make changes they should still contact their S-1," Jones said. "Once changes are made in eMILPO, Soldiers should see corrections to their ERB within 24 to 48 hours."

The ERB virtually replaces two forms — the old three-page ERB and the four-page DA

form 2-1 for enlisted personnel, officials said. They added that the new ERB is now available for viewing 24/7 on the EREC homepage.

Similar to the ORB, the ERB contains personnel information used to manage professional development, assignments, and promotions such as assignment history, civilian and military education, awards and decorations, special skills, and individual qualifications. Both documents are updated from the data stored in eMILPO.

Currently, only the ORB includes a photo. The ERB will incorporate enlisted official photographs from the Department of the Army Photo Management Information System, known as DAPMIS, in a couple of months, officials said.

# File-sharing software is illegal

The U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command is on the 'look out' for any individuals using Peer-2-Peer (P2P) software.

P2P software — which includes Kazaa, Limewire, Tripinosis, Imesh, Grokster, BitTorrent, Wrapster, Napigator, Morpheus or similar programs — on government computers is illegal.

It is recommended that any individuals with P2P software currently on their government computers either get approval to continue using the program or delete the program.

Besides the fact most of the material shared is copyrighted — for example music, books and movies — file-sharing opens a computer system to virus attacks and file theft and limits network capacity.

P2P file-sharing on Army information systems is a violation of the Joint Ethics Regulation, AR 25-2 and other federal regulations, and violators are subject to criminal and civil punishment for the possession, storage, copying and sharing of copyright material alone.

## Recognizing the best

Nominations are currently being accepted for the Commander's Plaque for Operational Achievement for 2003. The award is annually presented to the individual who made the single greatest contribution to the operational effectiveness of INSCOM.

For additional information, contact Ron Gunter at (703) 428-4687.